

C. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 6-8, 14, and 19-29 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 8, and 14 are independent claims. Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended, claim 13 has been canceled, and no claims have been added in this Response.

Drawings

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of Applicants' formal drawings filed concurrently with the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 6-8, 13, 14, and 19-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 due to minor typographical errors. Claim 13 has been canceled in this response and, therefore, the rejection to this claim is moot.

Applicants have corrected a minor typographical error in claims 1, 8, and 14. This correction was suggested by the Examiner (see Final Office Action, page 2, line 8 through page 3, line 7). As such, Applicants request removal of the 112 rejections to these claims as well as dependent claims 6-8 and 19-29. Since these amendments are placing Applicants' claims in a better form for consideration on appeal, it is proper to enter these amendments (MPEP 714.12).

Claim Rejections - Alleged Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, 19, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Al-Salqan (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,626, hereinafter "Al-Salqan") in view of

Hosokawa (U.S. Patent Pub. 2001/0023416, hereinafter "Hosokawa"). Claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Al-Salqan and Hosokawa and admission of Applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As presented in the response to Office Action filed December 11, 2005 Applicants contend that neither Al-Salqan nor Hosokawa teach or suggest the following limitations included in Applicants' independent claims:

- receiving, at security module, a first password corresponding to a software application;
- returning the encrypted tied key to the software application;
- determining, at the software application, that the encrypted tied key corresponds to the security module; and
- encrypting data provided by the software application using the recovered generated key.

Therefore, since neither Al-Salqan nor Hosokawa teach or suggest, in whole or in part, all of Applicants' independent claim limitations, Applicants' independent claims 1, 8, and 14 are allowable over Al-Salqan in view of Hosokawa.

Each of the remaining claims 6-7, and 19-29 each depend, directly or indirectly, upon one of the allowable independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Therefore, claims 6-7, and 19-29 are each allowable for the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Leslie A. Van Leeuwen Reg. No. 42,196/
Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196
Van Leeuwen & Van Leeuwen
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone: (512) 301-6738
Facsimile: (512) 301-6742